

REPORT

Of the Committee on the Public Buildings, &c. accompanied with a bill to provide for erecting additional buildings for the accommodation of the several executive departments.

JANUARY 26, 1818.

Read, and with the bill, committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

The Committee, to which was referred so much of the President's message as relates to the "public buildings, and to the erection of new edifices for the accommodation of the Heads of Departments and the Attorney General,"

REPORT:

That among the most important objects to which their attention was called by that part of the President's message specially committed to their consideration, was the insufficiency of the public buildings for the accommodation of the several executive Departments. For the purpose of ascertaining their present situation, and also what further provision might be necessary for their better accommodation, the committee on the 10th of December, addressed a note to the head of each of the executive Departments requesting such information, and also requesting to be informed what number of rooms were then occupied by each department in the public buildings appropriated for that purpose, and also what number, if any, in buildings which had been rented of individuals. In compliance with this request, the committee have been furnished with statements from each department, giving the information desired; which statements are herewith submitted as a part of this report.

From the information thus derived, the committee became satisfied that the public buildings at present occupied as public offices, are altogether insufficient for the transaction of the business connected therewith; that placing different branches of the departments at a distance from the head, as must be the case while the public buildings are so crowded as to render it necessary to resort to private buildings, and as is now the fact in the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments, is both inconvenient and expensive, and therefore, that the erection of new buildings sufficient to afford ample accommoda-

tion for all the branches of the several departments, and in a situation convenient for each is necessary.

Believing it to be expedient to place the buildings about to be erected, near those now occupied as public offices, the commissioner of the public buildings was, on the 31st of December directed to examine and report whether the northwest and northeast corners of what is called the President's square, would afford convenient sites for such edifices, to be placed on a line parallel with the other offices. The report of colonel Lane, made in compliance with this request is herewith communicated. The next object of the committee was to ascertain the probable expense of erecting and completing such buildings as in their opinion the public interest required. For this purpose they directed colonel Lane, the Commissioner of the Public Buildings, to furnish an estimate, detailing as particularly as possible, the expense of erecting and finishing fit for occupation, two buildings similar in structure to those at present occupied by the Treasury and War Departments.

The answer of the Commissioner, accompanied with drawings and a detailed report made to him by James Hoban, an architect in the employment of the government, is also herewith communicated. The reports and estimates which have heretofore been received from this architect, particularly of the President's house, have been so correct as to justify the expectation that the actual expenditure in completing the buildings contemplated to be erected will not exceed the estimates. The committee have therefore, reported a bill to provide for erecting additional buildings for the accommodation of the several executive departments.

Documents accompanying a bill to provide for erecting additional buildings for the accommodation of the several executive departments.

Albion K. Parris, Esq.

*Chairman of a Committee of the
House of Representatives, U. S.*

Department of State,

Washington, 27th December, 1817.

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the tenth instant, I have the honor to inform you, that there are occupied by this Department, five rooms on the second floor of the south and east end of the public building, west of the President's house, four rooms in the garret of the same building, two rooms occupied for the Patent Office in the building where the General and City Post Office is kept.

The only house rented by the department is that in which the messenger resides.

These rooms are not sufficient for the transaction of the daily and ordinary business of the department. Independent of which, a room is wanted for the convenient arrangement of the books and papers belonging to the Office of the Secretary of the Congress under the Confederation; for the constantly accumulating archives and records of the department, for the library belonging to it, and for the safe keeping of the models in the Patent Office. These necessities, already pressing, must necessarily become more urgent from year to year, in proportion as the increasing population of the country multiplies its relations of intercourse, both at home and with foreign nations. The whole building in which the office of the department is kept, would even now, after providing for the convenience of the public service, leave little, if any, room unoccupied.

I am, with great respect, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

Treasury Department,

December 17th, 1817.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 10th inst. inquiring, what further accommodations are necessary for the different branches of the

Treasury Department, and also what number of rooms is at this time occupied by that department in the public buildings appropriated for that purpose, and what number, if any, in buildings which have been rented of individuals, I have the honor to state, that at present, in what is generally called the Treasury Office, thirty rooms (exclusive of two fire proof rooms for the preservation of the records, and the rooms in the garret) are occupied by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Comptroller, the first and fifth Auditors, the Register of the Treasury, the Treasurer of the United States, and the Commissioner of the Revenue. That in the building generally called the War Office, the second Comptroller, and the second, third, and fourth Auditors of the Treasury, occupy fourteen rooms. That the General Land Office occupies eight rooms, rented of an individual.

At present two rooms in the Treasury building are occupied by the Office of Discount and Deposit. This accommodation was afforded the bank under an expectation, that measures would be promptly taken to procure or erect a building suitable for the purpose; and the board of directors who have as yet taken no steps for the accomplishment of that object, will be informed, that their occupancy of the rooms in question, must shortly terminate. These rooms, with those now occupied by the Commissioner of the Revenue, when his duties shall be terminated, will render the situation of the offices now kept in the Treasury building, convenient and proper for the despatch of public business.

The second Comptroller, and the second, third, and fourth Auditors, are more inconveniently crowded in the rooms which they occupy, than the offices which are kept in the Treasury building.

Instead of the fourteen rooms now occupied by them in the War Office, they require twenty-nine rooms; and if the additional number of clerks, necessary to bring up, in a reasonable time, the arrearage in the office of the third Auditor, should be provided for by law, two additional rooms would be required, making in the whole thirty-one. The Commissioner of the General Land Office now occupies eight rooms, and believes that twelve will be necessary. As the business of that office must necessarily be greatly increased, in consequence of the continual increase of the number of Land Offices, there can be no doubt, but that in a very few years that number of rooms would not be more than the public service would require.

If it is intended that all the offices comprising the Treasury Department should be accommodated in one range of buildings, it will be necessary to enlarge the Treasury building, so as to furnish forty-three additional rooms.

Such an arrangement would leave unoccupied in the War Office, a sufficient number of rooms to accommodate in a suitable manner, the Attorney General, the Commissioners of the Navy Board, and the Ordnance Department. That building would then be occupied by the State Department, the War Department, including the Offices of Adjutant and Inspector General, of the Paymaster General, and of

the Ordnance Department; the Navy Department, including the Office of Commissioners of the Navy Board, and the Office of the Attorney General. If, however, it should be considered necessary, that the offices of the second Comptroller, and of the second, third, and fourth Auditors, should be kept in the buildings occupied by the Secretaries of the War and Navy Departments, then an addition of twelve rooms in the Treasury building for the accommodation of the General Land Office, will be all that will be required, unless it should be deemed expedient to furnish the Attorney General with an office in that building. The greatest addition to the public offices would then be made in the War Office, where seventeen additional rooms will be required for the accounting officers, before enumerated, exclusive of the accommodation necessary for the Navy Board, and Ordnance Department.

Statement A, hereto annexed, shows the present and proposed distribution in the Treasury Building.

Statement B, exhibits the same view of the War Office.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

*Hon. Albion K. Parris,
Chairman of the Committee
of Public Buildings.*

*Department of War,
December 15th, 1817.*

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 10th instant, requesting me to inform the committee of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred "so much of the President's message, as relates to the public buildings, what further accommodations are necessary for the different branches of the Department of War," I have the honor to state, that ten rooms, in addition to those now occupied by the War Department in the public buildings, will be required for its accommodation. The Department of War occupies, at this time, five rooms in the public buildings, including two assigned to the paymaster general, and rents eight rooms of individuals, for which a high price is paid.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

J. C. CALHOUN.

*Honorable Albion K. Parris,
Chairman of Committee on
Public Buildings, &c.*

*Navy Department,
December 18th, 1817.*

SIR,

In compliance with your request in behalf of the committee of the House of Representatives, relative to the public buildings, I have the honor to state, that the business of the Navy Department and of the Commissioners of the Navy immediately connected with it, has long suffered great inconvenience from the crowded state of the rooms which are occupied in the *public buildings*; and the Navy Commissioners have been badly accommodated in different private houses remote from the Navy Office.

I therefore improve the occasion offered by your communication, to suggest, that two additional rooms are necessary for the Navy Department, in order to a prompt execution of the important duties, at certain periods, *free from interruption*.

The Commissioners of the Navy Board suggest, for their accommodation, five rooms of ordinary size, and one large room for models, maps and other valuable articles, which are now in a very crowded place and difficult of access and examination in the usual course of business.

The Navy Department now occupies three rooms in the public buildings, and one small garret room for the deposit of extra books and papers, without a fire place.

The Commissioners rent a small house at three hundred dollars per annum, consisting of five rooms, without affording one for models, maps, &c.

All which is respectfully submitted.

B. W. CROWNINSHIELD.

*Honorable Albion K. Parris,
Chairman Committee Public Buildings.*

Washington, January 7th, 1818.

SIR,

Upon examination, I am of opinion, that the proper site for the erection of two buildings, similar to the Treasury and War Offices, would be directly north of those offices, leaving a sufficient court between.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL LANE,

Commissioner Public Buildings.

Hon. Albion K. Parris, Chairman, &c. &c.

Washington, January 21st, 1818.

SIR,

I now forward plans and estimates of two buildings similar to those at present occupied by the Treasury and War Departments, as required by your letter of 31st ultimo. These have been delayed in consequence of the architect having to attend court as a witness.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL LANE,

Commissioner Public Buildings.

Hon. Albion K. Parris.

Samuel Lane, Esq. Commissioner of Public Lands.

SIR,

The following is an estimate of a building to contain forty rooms on two floors, exclusive of the garret and basement stories, to be built in a substantial manner of brick and stone, with a portico of six columns of the ionic order, with a pediment and flight of steps, with a cornice round the building, all of cut stone, and the basement story to be arched, every room and passage with brick, and to be covered with slate, thereby rendering the building as secure from fire as the nature of such a building will admit.

It may be proper to remark, that the coal and wood for the use of the offices, are deposited in the basement story.

To	2751	yards cube, digging foundation basement story	\$	Ct.	\$	Ct.
				25	687	75
	881	perches stone in foundation, basement walls		4 50	396	51
	1192	thousand bricks and laying		15	17880	00
	210	thousand bricks, arching basement story		25	5250	00
	10500	yards of plastering, three coats		40	4200	00
	3300	yards plastering counter ceiling		10	330	00
	180	squares roofing, boarding, and slateing		30 00	5400	00
	297	squares of floors and joist		20 00	5940	00

To 297	squares of counter floor-			
	ing - - -	6 00	1782 00	
1260	feet run of copper gutter			
	and water pipe -	75	945 00	
12	cistern heads of copper	12	144 00	
7386	beaded skirting to rooms			
	and passages -	12½	923 25	
1484	feet angle beads to quoins	8	118 72	
840	border to hearths -	10	84 00	
				47649 22
1220	yards painting, skirting,			
	and window heads and			
	cells - - -	33½	406 66	
48	windows, trimming princi-			
	pal story, frames, shut-			
	ters, sash, &c. -	53 92	2588 16	
48	windows, painting princi-			
	pal story, hinges, pullies,			
	weights, &c. -	39 90	1915 20	
50	windows in second story,			
	frames, sash, jams, arch,			
	&c. - - -	37 80	1890 00	
50	do. second story, painting,			
	glazing, pullies, weights,			
	&c. - - -	22 20	1610 00	
5	semi circular windows in			
	center of recess -	34 18	170 90	
3	venitian entrances first sto-			
	ry doors, sash, &c. -	102 50	307 50	
3	ditto entrances, glazing,			
	painting, iron saddle, &c.	54 30	162 90	
2	venitian windows second			
	story, frames, sash, &c.	96 56	193 12	
2	venitian windows, second			
	story, glazing, painting,			
	&c. - - -	71 00	142 00	
40	doorways, trimming first			
	story and second, hinges			
	locks, &c. -	63 68	2547 20	
18	doorways in garret, doors,			
	jams, locks, hinges, &c.	32 98	593 64	
18	dormons to roof, frames,			
	sash, glass and painting,			
	&c. - - -	68 00	1224 00	
2	stories of stairs, three			
	flights to each story,	500 00	1000 00	
14	cast iron gratings to base-			
	ment, semi windows	7 00	308 00	

To 34 feet run of iron railing to portico	6 00	224 00
2 windows in pediments, frames, sash, glazing, &c.		146 00
60 centers to trimmer arches	1 25	75 00
516 run of fillet gutter to roof	30	154 80
1007 yds. painting on stone, &c.	33½	335 66
		<hr/> 15 994 74

\$ 63,643 96

Cut Stone Work.

To 223½ tons of free stone in plinth and base	12 50	2793 75
3228½ feet work, in plain face	40	1291 40
550 sunk moulded base, bed and door sills	1 20	660
96 window sills	5 00	480
4 venetian window cells, with brakes	10 50	42
8 pilasters, back part moulded	30	240
4 heads, part circular	15	60
1 window sill in pediment	10 50	10 50
1282 steps and platforms in three flights	1 10	1410 20
561 feet run of fascia course	95	532 95
96 window heads	6	576
70 feet door sills, best hard stone	1 20	84

\$8180 20

818 02

8998 22

Add for setting, 10 per cent.

To 507 feet of stone cornice, molded	8 00
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4056

Portico, with six columns, entablature, &c.

318½ tons of free stone	13 50	4299 75
4154 feet plain face work	40	1661 60
1133 circular plain face	70	793 10
1229 sunk moulded work	1 00	1229
165 circular sunk moulded work	1 50	147 50
644 stones and work in steps	1 10	708 40
2 pilaster capitals	90	180

2

6 column capitals, 2 feet 9 inches diametar	200	1200	
		10219 35	
Add for setting, 10 per cent.		1031 93	
			11241 28
131 perches of foundation stone, to steps and plat- forms	4		524
			\$ 24819 50
266 feet steps and platforms, leading to base- ment		\$ 1 10	290 60
Iron and lead for stone work			150
Scaffolding, as poles, plank, blocks, cordage and labor			1200
12 chimney tops of stone		22 87	274 44
			\$ 26736 54
Brought over			63643 96
Amount of estimate			\$ 90380 50

Respectfully submitted by, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES HOBAN.

January 21st, 1818.

*Office of Commissioner of Public Buildings,
December 13th, 1817.*

SIR,

I enclose, for the inspection of the committee on so much of the President's message as relates to the public buildings, an estimate of the value of the public property in the city of Washington, and at the quarries. This estimate is predicated on a report made by the late superintendent of the city, to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 27th of February, 1816. Of the well known rise in the value of property in this place, since that date, I have taken no account, preferring to be under, rather than over the real estimate.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL LANE,

Commissioner Public Buildings.

Hon. Albion K. Parris, Chairman.

*Office of Commissioner of Public Buildings,
December 9th, 1817,*

Valuation of the public property within the city of Washington, viz:

5185	Building lots, estimated at \$180, (the average amount of former sales) per lot.	933,300 00
541	Acres of ground reserved for the use of the United States, estimated at the same rate, though deemed of much greater value, would amount to	740,000 00
	Wharves and water lots in the city, and free stone quarries at Aquia, about	40,000 00
E. E.		<u>\$1,713,300 00</u>

SAMUEL LANE,

Commisssoner Public Buildings.

Office of the Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

2100 Building, enclosed in 2100, for the purpose of

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